

News

From the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Donald S. Dott Jr., Director

KY State Nature Preserves Commission
801 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601-1403



Contacts: Ron Scott or
Cecilia Mitchell
(502) 573-2886

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS PRESERVE IMPORTANT NATURAL AREAS

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 22, 2002) – Two Franklin County landowners generously donated conservation easements preserving the natural quality of their land by permanently prohibiting development of the property today at the quarterly meeting of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. Donald Gates donated a conservation easement to the commission covering 112 acres of forested land along the Kentucky River in order to help preserve Braun’s rockcress – listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1995. Braun’s rockcress is found only in Franklin, Owen and Henry counties in Kentucky and one county in Tennessee. Gates' property is now the first permanently protected site for this exceptionally rare plant in Kentucky.

“We are extremely pleased to have these protection measures in place for the benefit of this species and its habitat,” said Deborah White, senior botanist for the commission. “We greatly appreciate Mr. Gates’ strong conservation ethic and are grateful for his willingness to work with us to help preserve this important part of our natural heritage.”

In addition to Gates’ gift, the commission also received a donated conservation easement on another ecologically significant tract of land owned by the Julian family of Frankfort. Jennie Julian, along with her daughter, Jane, and son, William, conveyed an easement covering 42.5 acres of land containing one of the few remaining examples of a Bluegrass savanna ecosystem. This type of ecosystem once covered large portions of central Kentucky and is characterized by grasslands interspersed with large, open grown trees such as Blue Ash, Chinquapin Oak, Bur Oak and Kentucky Coffee Trees.

“The commission has had a close and congenial working relationship with the Julian family for many years,” according to Joyce Bender, the commission’s branch manager for Nature Preserves and Natural Areas. “We are thrilled that this valuable natural area will be permanently protected and added to the state nature preserve system, thanks entirely to the generosity and vision of the Julian family.”

The commission will enforce the terms of the easements and manage both sites as state nature preserves, but because the landowners retain ownership of their respective property, neither location will be open to the general public. For more information about conservation easements and other land protection options available to private landowners, please contact Ron Scott, land protection specialist, at (502) 573-2886 or by e-mail at Ron.Scott@mail.state.ky.us.